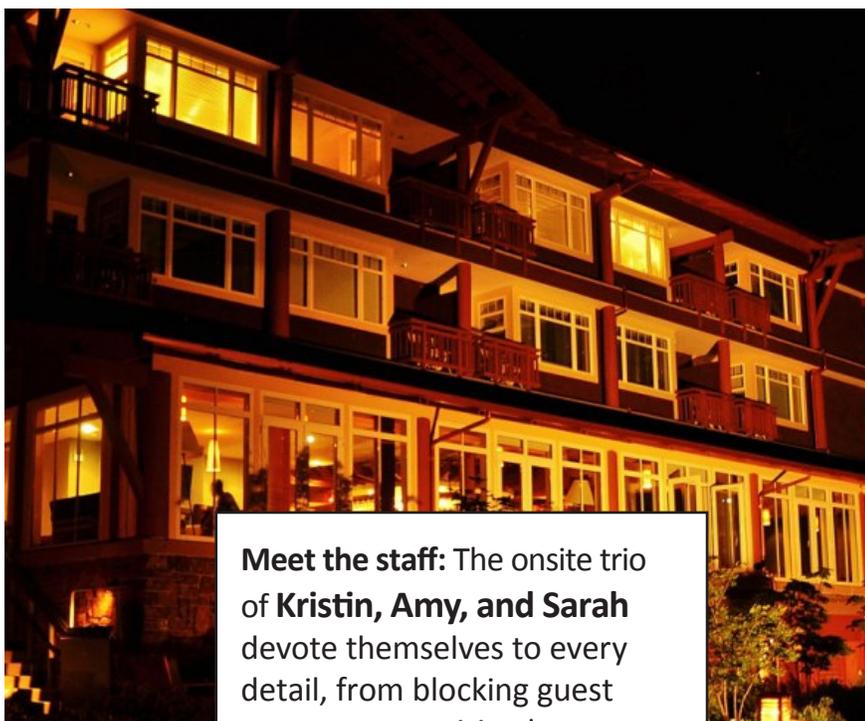


## Destination Wedding Resorts in the Pacific Northwest: 5 Properties to Consider

There are many reasons to plan your wedding in the Pacific Northwest. Part of the allure is purely scenic: edge-of-the-continent fjords and snow-tipped crags. And of course there's the food and wine, which are threatening to eclipse California as the premiere West's dining destination. But we're pretty sure a lot of couples choose a Northwestern wedding in order to make a statement: We may be getting married, but we're still rebels at heart. Here are five amazing places that will seduce even the hippest duo.



**Meet the staff:** The onsite trio of **Kristin, Amy, and Sarah** devote themselves to every detail, from blocking guest rooms to organizing bar set-ups to being on hand the day of the wedding itself. The hotel also requests that you hire a personal wedding planner to organize timing and vendors for both rehearsal dinner and wedding.

### THE ALDERBROOK

Union, WA

A hundred years ago, this was a tent resort only reachable by water, and it's still the quintessential Pacific Northwest summer resort. Children tumble around green lawns, couples grab kayaks to paddle the mirrorlike Hood Canal, and wedding portraits are often staged at the end of a long dock, framed by the Olympic Mountains—with maybe an eagle soaring overhead.

**Where it is:** On the banks of the Hood Canal, a natural glacier-carved fjord on the westernmost margin of the Puget Sound basin, you're truly away from it all. The resort is about a 90-minute drive from the Seattle airport; getting here from Portland takes two and a half hours.

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**The looks department:** No question where you are, with Olympic Mountain vistas and seals barking under the dock. The lodge itself—most of which was completely rebuilt less than ten years ago—is both oversize and intimate, with stacked-stone fireplaces and pillars, massive tree trunks, smooth wood ceiling trestles, and soaring windows.

**Party spaces:** Three lawns can be set up for open-air ceremonies and receptions starring a top-notch raw bar, thanks to the Hood Canal's bounty of oysters. If the weather turns wet, there's a ballroom full of natural light that guarantees gorgeous water views. If you want to be even closer to the Sound, the Lady Alderbrook, a 54-foot cruise boat, has a spacious upper deck for a floating reception. For small gatherings, private guesthouses near the golf course make charming spots for bridesmaids lunches and rehearsals.

**For guests on a budget:** The Robin Hood Village resort is just three minutes away; cabins and motel rooms at the Waterfront at Potlatch, a ten-mile drive, are basic but bargain-priced.

**One more thing:** Although summer can mean two to three weddings per weekend, the resort can be yours and yours alone.

